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An

Inaugural Dissertation

Paperd March 17th 1827
W. L. No.

On

W. L. H.

Mania a Potu

by

Roger Davis

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Pennsylvania

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The rules of this University requiring that every Candidate for the degree of Doctor of Medicine, should write an essay on some medical subject preparatory to his examination, I beg leave to offer the following dissertation on Mania a Potu.

Disease seems inseparable from the existence of man under all circumstances. The one under consideration is however the result of indiscretion. Individuals of cultivated minds, lofty sentiments, and glittering prospects, become too often the victims of intemperance. Of all the ills which commonly follow in ^{the} train of this detestable vice, none are so alarming, nor so well calculated to enlist our sympathies as that of Mania a Potu.

The mind of the human being
is not a blank slate but is
filled with a variety of
ideas and impressions
which are constantly
changing and growing
in complexity and
depth. The mind is
not a passive receiver
of information but is
an active participant
in the process of
learning and discovery.
The mind is a powerful
tool which can be used
to create and invent
new things. The mind
is a source of endless
possibilities and potential.
The mind is a treasure
trove of knowledge and
wisdom. The mind is
a gift from God which
should be used to
glorify Him and to
benefit the world.

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Symptoms

This affection of the mind is connected with the fever, consequent to the abuse of ardent liquors. It most frequently occurs in habitual drunkards, especially, if they suddenly cease from drinking, immediately after frequent fits of intoxication.

Disposition The first feelings of indisposition are lassitude, a singular alteration of countenance, eyes red and rolling with a wild glare in different directions, pulse full, strong, and easily compressible, loathing of food violent head ach, skin hot, tongue parched, with no very distinct manifestation of fever. Early in the case there is considerable gastric distress, with constipation and sometimes violent vomiting, so that no

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food or drink will remain on the stom-
ach. These symptoms are also accom-
panied at times with great thirst.
As the case advances there is an
increase of nervous tremours, and loss
of muscular power, insomuch as scarce-
ly to admit of motion. But occasion-
ally ~~great~~ paroxysms of violence occur,
and in these fits of madness, they
require several men to hold them.
These symptoms do not last long, before
they are succeeded by extreme debility,
which often terminates in convulsions.

The mind which from the first was
disturbed, becomes now exceedingly
deranged, and their imagination calls
forth the hideous phantasms, to har-
-ass and perplex them. Very often they
are timid, and suspicious; being aroused

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the bed.
escape the
by leaping.
They reach
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floats:
or floating
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disappear
at a distance
imagine the
them, and
they consider
balls: and
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by every footsteps, thinking of some one
in pursuit of them, to injure or murder
them, and under the influence of such
visions, either hide themselves under
the bed in a corner, or attempt to
escape the danger which threatens them
by leaping out of the window.

They believe that vermin are crawling
over their head or about their
neatness: or that bright or dark spots
are floating in the atmosphere.

Sometimes they fancy that there
are remarkable sounds or vibrations
at a distance: at other times they
imagine that the house is infested with
them and attempt to suppress what
they consider the evil by a following
of water and in their extremities, alternate
between and what as if they were



conversing with some one that was
present. They are often silent when ex-
amination, the extent of intelligence consist-
ing in picking up money scattered around,
or some such imaginary engagement.
In most cases an idea is formed in
mind with business immediately be-
fore them, or their attention is wholly en-
gaged by conspiracies, suspicions, or
the like. The countenance varies ac-
cording to the nature of the predominant
impression. If patients be abruptly con-
tradicted they are mostly very per-
turbative in their opinions and easi-
ly excited into passion; but if they
be soothingly dealt with, they will
now and then answer certain questions
mildly, and even distinctly, nevertheless
if many interrogations be put to them



in recognition, they grow confused and
relapse into their former incoherence.

Sometimes they mistake the names of
things or the pronunciation of words;
and although they generally recognise
most of their acquaintances, they load
some of them with abuse on trivial
pretexts, and request the friendly inter-
ference of others.

Much of the symptoms above enumera-
ted continue from four to ten days,
but even less active may be consider-
ably more protracted.

When consciousness is not restored
within the first month there will
be a risk of long continued if not
permanent loss of the mental faculties.

Progressive great irritation indicates
a course of convulsions, constant watching.

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rapid and tremulous pulse, violent
vomiting; contracted pupils are among
the most unfavourable signs.

Dissection

In dissection - I have seen the cere-
brum spotted, the stomach & small
intestine inflamed, and the liver bare
and spotted, either with tubercles
abscesses, congestion or acute inflammation.
The brain is always more or less affec-
ted in this disease. Upon examination
I have often found it in a state
of congestion, inflammation, or imbu-
ed with effusion of serum. In
more advanced stages of blood
has been found in the ventricles.
In such cases, water has not unre-
quently been found in the cavity
of the pons, as well as, in the pons-
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Treatment

Different opinions have been entertained respecting the cure of Mania a. Ple. Some following the doctrine indications of the pulse, deplete to a considerable extent while others, follow a plan of treatment directly the reverse: and pursue the most cordial and stimulating plan of treatment. The latter is the true practice.

The first step to be taken is to tranquillize the stomach. For this purpose the following mixture answers very well. Carbonate of potash ℥j. gum arabic ℥j. Laudanum gtt + + x. oil of mint gtt +. aqua ℥ss. The dose is a table spoonful every half hour until the stomach becomes calmed. Doct^r metcalf in his lectures stated

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the Bicarbonate of potash dissolved
in a pint of mineral water, to be
one of the ^{best} prescriptions for irritable
stomachs. Laudanum and hot toddy
may also be used; and afterwards
administer opium very freely.
But this plan of treatment refers
more particularly to cases occurring
in habitual drunkards. The patient
should be confined to a dark
room and freed from all noise.
To revive gastric sensibility, eme-
tics are often of service; but they
must be given in large doses and
frequently repeated. From one to
two grains of tartar emetic in as
many spoonsful of water and
reheated until it operates, answers

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very well. or perhaps what will be
more efficacious is one grain of lactu-
scm, with twenty grains of Thecacou-
anthe, given every half hour until
it operates. after the sensibility of
the stomach is somewhat awakened,
we recur again to the use of opium and
brands to induce sleep, which is the
great object in the treatment of
Mania a Potu.

If the pulse be very full, with a
great determination to the brain, mod-
erate bleeding with the application
of cups and blisters to the head, may
become necessary.

But the disease, if in the advanced
stage, or if depletion has been car-
ried too far, assumes a typhoid
character, with dry incrustated tongue.

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hot skin, suffused countenance, wild
eye, contracted pupil, nervous tremors,
subcutis tendinum and too detrium.

The practice in this stage of the
disease should consist of Opium and
Camphor, with carbonate of ammonia.

It may be given in doses of five
grains every four. or it may be given
in a mixture called the Botanic
Julep. It is made as follows, carbonate
of ammonia ℥ij. Gum Arabic. ℥j. sac-
charum album ℥j. water ℥iv. oil of
cinnamon qttv. dose a table spoon-
ful. This should be aided by wine
which is made as follows: Lactis
vaccine ℥ss. vini albi ℥i and ℥ij. Beat
the milk and then add the wine.
It must be given as the case re-
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The tincture of lupulin may also be used. It is prepared by digesting ℥ij of the lupulin in ℥j of alcohol, of which the dose is from ℥j to ℥ij. and repeated as the case may require. In addition to these may be mentioned strong brandy toddy. The abstraction of blood in this stage of the disease, would only increase the venous congestion, by further diminishing the force of the heart, and arteries

Diet

This as well as the medicines should be cordial and stimulating. Jellies with wine or brandy or spices, rich soups, or oysters and the plentiful use of cayenne pepper. During the convalescence the same

the system of education in
the United States is a
subject of much interest
to all who are concerned
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system of treatment should be pursued, though perhaps not to the same extent. Malt liquor will be found an exceedingly useful article of drink.

During the cure of Mania a potu, if the stimulating plan of treatment be not pursued, irritability of the stomach, morbid vigilance, and nervous tremors often occur.

When these symptoms supervene, we must again recur to the carbonate of ammonia, Hoffman's anodyne liquor, watery solution of Asafoetida and garlic. The two latter articles are particularly grateful to drunkards. A very common attendant of Mania a potu, is morbid vigilance, and is most effectually ~~removed~~ removed

{ Vol. 1 Mania & Insipientia 1822.
 William Millner Jr

Notes

Mania & Insipientia

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